



Media Release

From the office of
Rick Norlock, MP Northumberland-Quinte West

April 8, 2015

Government of Canada helps Canadians with disabilities in Northumberland gain job skills

(Cobourg, ON) -- The Government of Canada is helping Canadians with disabilities gain the skills and experience they need to find jobs. The announcement was made today by Rick Norlock, Member of Parliament for Northumberland-Quinte West, on behalf of the Honourable Candice Bergen, Minister of State for Social Development.

Community Living-West Northumberland is receiving \$ 168,093.00 from the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities for its project to help 40 people with disabilities in Northumberland overcome barriers to employment.

Project participants will develop the skills and experience they need to successfully enter the job market or return to school. They will improve their employment skills through Enhanced Employment Assistance Service and gain work experience with local employers in Northumberland County.

Since 2006, the Opportunities Fund has helped 40,000 people with disabilities across Canada. This is part of the Government of Canada's overall strategy to equip all Canadians with the skills and training they need to connect with available jobs.

Quick Facts

- To provide more demand-driven training solutions for people with disabilities, the Government's Economic Action Plan is increasing funding to \$40 million annually to the Opportunities Fund. Employers and community organizations will be involved in designing and delivering training projects.
- The Government provides \$222 million annually to the provinces and territories through Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities to help Canadians with disabilities develop skills to improve their job prospects.
- Through the Economic Action Plan 2014, the Government is providing \$15 million over three years to the Canadian Association for Community Living to help connect people with developmental disabilities with jobs. It is also providing \$11.4 million over four years to the Sinneave Family Foundation and Autism Speaks Canada to expand vocational training programs for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Quotes

"Our Government's top priorities are creating jobs and economic growth. To support Canada's long-term prosperity, we must ensure that everyone who wants to work has the opportunity to do so. The project announced today will help Canadians with disabilities get the skills needed to obtain jobs and enable employers to benefit from their skills and talents."

– The Honourable Candice Bergen, Minister of State for Social Development

"Canadians with disabilities deserve every opportunity to participate in the job market, and that's why partnerships with organizations like Community Living West Northumberland are so important. Through this project, people with disabilities in Northumberland will gain the skills and experience they need to succeed in the workforce."

– Rick Norlock, Member of Parliament for Northumberland-Quinte West

"We are extremely pleased to have this opportunity to expand our Employment Program and assist more individuals with disabilities."

– Cathy Timlin, Executive Director of Community Living-West Northumberland

For more information, please contact:

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Backgrounder

The **Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities** assists Canadians with disabilities to prepare for, obtain and keep employment, or become self-employed, to help them participate fully in the workforce and increase their independence.

Economic Action Plan 2013 announced a \$10-million increase in funding for the Opportunities Fund, to \$40 million annually, starting in 2015–16. Recently announced reforms will place a greater emphasis on hands-on experience, including work experience for more youth with disabilities, and ensure employers and community organizations are involved in the design and delivery of projects.

To further help Canadians with disabilities in the workforce, the Government has:

- extended the Enabling Accessibility Fund on an ongoing basis at \$15 million per year to improve accessibility in facilities across Canada, including workplaces; and
- provided funding of \$7 million per year for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, some of which will support research related to the labour market participation of people with disabilities.

Other measures to connect Canadians with available jobs and equip them with the skills and training they need include the Canada Job Grant, creating opportunities for apprentices and providing support to under-represented groups, including people with disabilities, Aboriginal people, newcomers and youth.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



COMMUNITY LIVING
West Northumberland

New Investments from the Opportunities Fund to enhance employment resources for people with disabilities in Northumberland.

Please join us as Rick Norlock, MP for Northumberland-Quinte West, will announce new investments to Community Living-West Northumberland, Employment Assistance Resource Network, to provide Enhanced Employment Assistance Services, Skills for Employment and Wage Subsidy to people with disabilities who are unemployed or under employed.

EARN's "Stepping Stones to Employment" project will function as a Community Coordinator throughout Northumberland to assist people to enhance their employability and prepare for, obtain and maintain employment or return to school.

Please join us as we share the details of this exciting announcement.

When: Wednesday, April 8th, 2015
2:00pm

Where: EARN
Northumberland CFDC Learning Centre
600 William St., Suite 500
Cobourg, Ontario

[Click this link for a map to the location.](#)

Please RSVP:

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